

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-05
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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135188

LIMDIS

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, CG, BE

SUBJECT: COBALT AND THE STRATEGIC STOCKPILE

REF: BRUSSELS 10219 (NOTAL)

1. THE CURRENT INVENTORY OF COBALT IN THE STRATEGIC STOCK-
PILE IS 40,802,972 POUNDS. THE STOCKPILE GOAL FOR COBALT
IS 85,415,000 POUNDS. THUS, THERE IS CURRENTLY A SHORTFALL
OF 44,612,028 POUNDS BETWEEN THE CURRENT INVENTORY AND THE
STOCKPILE GOAL. THAT GOAL WAS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED ON
OCTOBER 1, 1976, AND REAFFIRMED A YEAR LATER BY CURRENT
ADMINISTRATION. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CHANGE THAT GOAL,
AS MENTIONED IN PARA 2 OF BRUSSELS 10219.

2. THE SHORTFALL IN COBALT IN THE STOCKPILE INDICATES THAT
OVER THE LONG-TERM THE GSA WILL ACQUIRE COBALT TO MEET ITS
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GOAL. HOWEVER, THE STOCKPILE GOALS ARE CONSIDERED LONG-
RANGE OBJECTIVES TOWARD WHICH PROGRESS WILL BE MADE AS LONG
AS POLICY GUIDANCE AND OTHER DETERMINANTS REMAIN THE SAME.
A SHORTFALL IN COBALT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN
INCLUSION OF COBALT ON THE ACQUISITIONS LIST FOR ANY GIVEN
YEAR. THAT IS DETERMINED BY THE PRIORITY OF OUR COBALT
NEEDS RELATIVE THE OTHER 92 MATERIALS IN THE STOCKPILE.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL LIMDIS: SENATE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE MARKED-UP STOCKPILE TRANSACTIONS BILLS YESTER-
DAY AND APPROVED AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 1.5 MILLION
POUNDS OF COBALT FOR THE STOCKPILE. HOWEVER, BILL WILL
ALSO HAVE TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE, AND ANY DIFFERENCES WHICH MAY ARISE WITH COMMO-
DITY DISPOSAL BILL(S) WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY EMERGE FROM
THE HOUSE WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN CONFERENCE BEFORE
ENACTMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL LIMDIS VANCE

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Message Attributes

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